

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on January 28, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research
Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ms. Billie Hall, President & CEO, Sunflower Foundation
Ms. Paula Marmet, MS, RD, Director, Office of Health Promotion

Others attending:

Please See Attached List.

Introduction of Bills

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle asked for bill introduction. She recognized Senator Jordan who had two pieces of legislation, the first being a request from the District Attorney to introduce legislation concerning the Unborn Victims Violence Act. Senator Jordan made a motion to introduce this bill request, Senator Steineger seconded and the motion carried. The second request was to re-establishment of electronic communicable disease reporting. Senator Jordan again made a motion to introduce this bill request, Senator Journey seconded and the motion carried.

She then recognized Senator Barnett who requested to re-introduce the revised birth defect registry. Senator Barnett then made the motion to introduce this legislation, Senator Haley seconded and the motion carried.

Overview of “Funded Projects Relating to Obesity”

The Chair then introduced Ms. Billie Hall, President and CEO of Sunflower Foundation who started her presentation by offering some background on the foundation. She stated it is the health care for Kansans created in 2000, proceeds coming from a settlement between the Kansas Attorney General, the Kansas Insurance Department and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas to resolve Blue Cross’ charitable obligations to the state. Highlights of her remaining testimony are as follows:

- 1) What they are doing (ex. Have included obesity among funding priorities and have issued grants of \$1.8 million for 23 projects addressing obesity);
- 2) What they have learned (ex. There are many organizations throughout the state that are testing strategies to address this growing problem but there is no coordination for developing a comprehensive approach.
- 3) Overview of Activities (ex. Statewide planning initiatives and funding of obesity grants such as a school-based project to collect data on K-12 children and youth and a statewide telephone survey).

A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Ms. Hall then introduced Ms. Melissa Ness, an independent contractor for Connections Unlimited, who reiterated Ms. Hall's information of the statewide planning initiatives, what they have put in place, and the process itself. No written testimony was offered.

The Chair then introduced Ms. Paula Marmet, MS, RD, Director, Office of Health Promotion. A copy of her testimony is ([Attachment 2](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Highlights included:

- 1) History (ex. KDHE has been monitoring overweight and obesity in Kansas since 1992 and 2001 data indicates more than 1 in 5 Kansas adults are now obese, representing a 70% increase since 1992.)
- 2) Data (obesity related expenditures represent approximately 5.5% of the state's annual health care bill.)
- 3) Health Kansans 2000 (ex. Presented a list of programs and updates of their involvement such as:
 - A) participation in the National Governors Association Policy Academy on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management and are receiving one year of technical assistance in developing a plan for chronic disease prevention and management;
 - B) development of the Kansas LEAN (Leadership to Encourage Activity and Nutrition) Coalition initially focusing on decreasing the percent of calories from fat; and,
 - C) family planning program - the WIC program and contracts with 57 providers across the state to provide women's health care).
- 4) Recommendations (ex. Developing safe walking and cycling trails to give more people access to places for physical activity and Walk to School & Walking Bus schedules by identifying safe routes to schools).
- 5) Lastly, she provided the Kansas versions of physical activity, nutrition, and community-based strategies to address obesity.

The Chair then asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Senators Haley, Salmans, and Barnett and Ms. Correll ranging from was there a correlation between average age, population, and income, regarding the data by county does it include other factors, what is the white area on the map, the definition of disease, what is the motivation behind calling it a chronic disease, as alcoholism is now listed as a disease are we going to go through the same phase with obesity, categorizing obesity, BMI, as a legislature should we be piecemealing this or wait for something more comprehensive from the Sunflower Foundation, to a comment from Senator Haley, who attended the National Governors Association Policy Academy, stating he was excited and supportive of the project and hopes all can work towards goals that can be reached within certain test communities.

The Chair then thanked the presenters for the opportunity to learn more about these issues and elevating the Committee's awareness.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2004.